

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PINT, EFIN, UK

SUBJECT: DRAFT PRESS GUIDANCE FOR CALLAGHAN VISIT

REF: STATE 65758

FOLLOWING IS DRAFT PRESS GUIDANCE, WHICH LIKE DRAFT PRESS
RELEASE TRANSMITTED REFTEL, HAS BEEN SENT TO BRITISH
EMBASSY FOR CLEARANCE. CLEARANCE EXPECTED BY 0830 EST
MARCH 15 WITH WHITE HOUSE MAKING RELEASE AT 1000 EST:

BEGIN PRESS GUIDANCE

Q. IS THIS MEETING TAKING PLACE BECAUSE OF THE FINANCIAL
CRISIS?

A. NO. THIS VISIT HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. IT IS
PART OF REGULAR CONSULTATIONS AMONG ALLIED LEADERS.

Q. WHAT OTHER "CONSULTATIONS" ARE PLANNED?

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A. AS YOU KNOW, PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA OF JAPAN IS COMING
HERE LATER THIS SPRING; THE PRIME MINISTER OF DENMARK (WHO
IS ALSO IN THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL) WAS
RECENTLY HERE; ALLIED LEADERS WILL BE ATTENDING THE NATO
SUMMIT HERE IN MAY; AND THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT SEEN PRIME
MINISTER CALLAGHAN SINCE LAST MAY.

Q. DOES THIS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE FRENCH ELECTIONS?

A. NO

Q. IS THIS MEETING PROMPTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S TALKS
WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT LAST WEEKEND?

A. NO THIS VISIT WAS PLANNED BEFOREHAND.

Q. IS THE PRIME MINISTER BRINGING A MESSAGE FROM SCHMIDT?

A. NO.

Q. WILL THE FINANCIAL CRISIS COME UP?

A. THERE IS NO SET AGENDA. THEY WILL DISCUSS A WIDE RANGE
OF ISSUES. NO ISSUES ARE RULED OUT. ECONOMICS WILL MOST
LIKELY BE ONE OF THE ISSUES DISCUSSED.

Q. IS THIS VISIT IN ANY WAY RELATED TO THE 7-NATION SUMMIT?

A. ONLY IN THE SENSE THAT ANY SUCH DISCUSSIONS WOULD INVOLVE
ISSUES THAT WOULD ALSO BE RAISED AT 7-NATION SUMMITS.

Q. IS THIS VISIT RELATED TO U.S.-GERMAN DIFFERENCES?

A. NO.

Q. DOES THIS VISIT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH PRIME MINISTER
BEGIN'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES?

A. NO.

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Q. BUT WILL THE MIDDLE EAST BE DISCUSSED?

A. THERE IS NO SET AGENDA. THEY WILL DISCUSS A WIDE RANGE
OF ISSUES. NO SUBJECT IS RULED OUT.

Q. DOES THIS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND
FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN'S RECENT VISIT HERE?

A. THE VISIT HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR SOME TIME. AGAIN, THERE
IS NO SET AGENDA, AND NO SUBJECT IS RULED OUT.

END OF PRESS GUIDANCE. VANCE

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